

an Image. Another Christian writer describes how the Egyptians, with shorn heads, annually lamented over a buried idol of Osiris, smiting their breasts, slashing their shoulders, ripping open their old wounds, until, after several days of mourning, they professed to find the mangled remains of the god, at which they rejoiced.¹ However the details of the ceremony may have varied in different places, the pretence of finding the god's body, and probably of restoring it to life, was a great event in the festal year of the Egyptians. The shouts of joy which greeted It are described or alluded to by many ancient writers.²

§ 4. *The Festival in the Month of KJioiak*

he great The funeral rites of Osiris, as they were observed at his

sinan m- p-reat festival in the sixteen provinces of Eeypt, are described

option at =>

enderah. in a long Inscription of the Ptolemaic period, which is engraved on the walls of the god's temple at Denderah, the Tentyra of the Greeks, a town of Upper Egypt situated on the western bank of the Nile about forty miles north of Thebes.³ Unfortunately, while the information thus furnished is remarkably full and minute on many points, the arrangement adopted in the inscription is so confused and the expression often so obscure that a clear and consistent account of the ceremonies as a whole can hardly be extracted from it. Moreover, we learn from the document that the ceremonies varied somewhat in the several cities, the ritual of Abydos, for example, differing from that of Busiris. Without attempting to trace all the

particularities of local usage
 I shall briefly indicate what seem to have
 been the leading
 features of the festival, so far as these
 can be ascertained
 with tolerable certainty.⁴

¹ Firmicus Maternus, *De errors pro- Adverstts*
Marcionem ^ |. 13; Augustine,
fattarum rdigionum, 2. Herodotus *De avitate, Dei*,
 vi. 10.
 tells (ii. 61) how the Carians cut their ³ W. Smith,
Dictionary of Creek
 foreheads with knives at the mourning *and Roman Geography* ^
 ii. 1127.
 for Osiris. ⁴ For complete translations of the
² In addition to the writers who inscription see XL
 Brugsch, "Das
 have been already cited see Juvenal, Osiris-Mysterium von
 Tentyra," *Zett-*
 viii. 29 sq.; Athenagoras, *Sitpplicatioschrift fur dgyplische*
Sprache umi
pro Christ ianis, 22, pp. 112, 114, ed. *Alttrthnmskimde.*) 1881,
 pp. 77-111;
 J. C. T. Otto (Jena, 1857); Tertullian, V. Loret, "Les fetes
 d'Osiris an mois